

VISITORS TALK

Nice Things About Wichita

ita and the Congress

A CHURCH HISTORY

Development of St. John's Episcopal

John's Episcopal

OUR VISITORS TALK.

Many fine things are being said about Wichita in connection with the Trans-Mississippi congress. As an instance, the interviews, recently published in the Houston Post, with those who participated in the congress are given:

Mr. B. F. Bonner: Speaking of Wichita makes me feel good. There are several members of our delegation who have in the past attended conventions all the way from the Canada to the Gulf and from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and I want to join in the one impression of us all that they have never had the honor of being so royally entertained as on this trip to Wichita. The members of the Wichita Commercial club have hospitality in its proper sense incorporated in their very souls. They know just how to make us feel as if the town and all that was in it, including the Commercial club, belonged to us. It seemed to be their one whole desire to have us feel easy and comfortable and I am sure that they did not fall short in a single instance and when the Texas delegation bade them good-night they even had us believing that the flowers were sweeter, the air was purer and the girls were prettier than in any other spot on earth. I am proud to say that the members of the Texas delegation are feeling truly proud of the Trans-Mississippi Congress at Wichita.

H. M. Wolverton of Duncan, I. T., vice president at large from the Indian Territory: After visiting Wichita and attending the Trans-Mississippi Commercial Congress, I am more impressed with the importance of the coming commercial, agricultural and mining center than ever before. I think the Trans-Mississippi Commercial Congress is one of the grandest institutions ever conceived. I believe that the good results brought about by the business men of the west representing all the various branches of commerce will affect the future of the west in a way that will be a great benefit to the nation. The commercial and industrial center that is at this time anticipated, I feel especially thankful to the people of Wichita for the generous and hospitable treatment that we have received at their hands. I am glad that Houston will have the next congress which meets in 1900. Houston was represented by a large delegation of prominent business men, representing various branches of commerce. They are an energetic, enterprising and free-hearted people. They are now working on deep water with the view of becoming an outlet for their gulf trade. Steps have been initiated in this matter, and could not have been more wisely planned than that which they have before the congress at Wichita in agreeing to bring the business men of the west to see for themselves that the plan that they set forth is a just and meritorious one and that they are entitled to recognition by the congress of the United States. I believe that if deep water is obtained that it will be more beneficial to the Indian Territory and Oklahoma. I may say that I am unimpairedly opposed to statehood for the Indian and Oklahoma Territory for a number of reasons. If admission is inevitable, however, our people will demand that it be done on equal terms, that an equal division of public offices and buildings be made.

C. S. Penfield: The Trans-Mississippi Commercial Congress is only second in importance to our national congress. It is composed of men of the highest character and ability, representing all of the states west of the Mississippi river and is really impressive to contemplate. The leading business and professional men devoting their time and thought and care to the conferences of this congress, evidently regard that the work and influence of this congress is of the most important importance. I believe that the meeting of the Trans-Mississippi congress at Houston will be one of the most important events in the history of this city's history. It was especially gratifying to the Houston people to see the appreciation shown by all of these representatives of Houston's importance and future. I return from Wichita with increased confidence and higher aspirations for Houston's future than ever.

Hon. James F. Garfield of Corsicana: In my opinion the meeting of the Trans-Mississippi Commercial Congress at Houston will be of very great benefit to Houston and probably result in getting the deep water canal. It will also be of great benefit to the whole state, being composed of a representative body of men. All of the west and northwest will see Texas for themselves and learn the wonderful extent of its resources. I imagine it will have some effect upon the delegates from abroad that our visit to Kansas has had an amount of it. I confess that after seeing as much as I have of Kansas I have a great deal better opinion of it than I ever had before. I am sure that this will certainly be the case with those who visit Texas. Through the courtesy of Major Graham, we have had a most delightful trip and received as much courtesy and attention from him that we felt as if we were in Texas all the time and enjoying the presence of home life. It was an occasion long to be remembered by myself and all the other members of the party.

J. M. Cotton: The character of the men who are attending the congress at Wichita is a guarantee that the Trans-Mississippi Commercial Congress will be a success. I have seen all the delegates and they are all men of high character and ability. It was this congress at Denver that brought the appropriation of \$1,000,000 for the fort at Fort Union. When they were in making any recommendation it is almost sure to bring forth good results. You ask what I think the next congress will bring to Houston? I am inclined to believe, after a talk with a large number of the delegates in attendance at Wichita, that we will have one of the largest congresses in point of attendance next year at Houston that has ever been held. The Texas delegation promised the members of the congress that they would be royally entertained; that they would have a ball on a government steamer from Galveston and out through the straits to deep water, and if time will permit, they must also give an extension to Sabine Pass, Velasco, Port Arthur and Alvarado Pass. A large number of the delegates from the mountain districts are anxious to visit the deep water ports of Texas, and, as Houston never does anything by halves, or in a half-hearted manner, I am sure that all our citizens will unite in making good the guarantee of the delegates to Wichita. Too much cannot be said as to the importance of this congress. When a meeting of business men, manufacturers and agriculturists unite in a four days' session for serious consideration of business problems and those of manufacturers and

transportation, eschewing all political themes, we have no recommendations as the result.

General J. R. Walters met with a most magnificent reception at Wichita by Col. Fitch, Major Brown, Lieutenant Barron and others who were officers of the Twenty-first Kansas, which regiment was a portion of his command while at Chickasaw and other places. The general officers of this regiment were proud of their general and seem to take especial delight in having him meet their friends from Kansas, Oklahoma and other states. They made his visit a pleasant one and rendered great assistance in getting a majority of the Kansas vote for Houston. The general said that the meeting of the congress was a wonderful event and means much to the western half of this country and Houston can count herself fortunate in securing the next meeting. "As for myself," said he, "I never enjoyed a more delightful visit in my life."

C. H. Milby: The magnitude and importance of the Trans-Mississippi Commercial Congress at Wichita was far beyond my ideas of that organization. To most men of national reputation like Hon. D. F. Francis of St. Louis, Governor Pitkin and other prominent business men from New Orleans, congressmen from Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, California and other states, governors and ex-governors, railroad men, whose names are known everywhere, gathered together at the expense of time and money that it requires to visit such a place as this, created a deep impression upon me. We must begin the work at once to make the meeting next year the greatest success in the history of all preceding congresses, next in importance to the national congress at Washington. Thousands of persons who have never realized the importance of Houston as a deep water port, are now familiar with our strong position, and the benefits the west will derive from deep water channels from the city. We must raise the money necessary to push the work at once. I shall take pleasure in subscribing to such a fund, as I feel certain that many who are interested. The people of twenty states and territories will for the next year have their eyes upon Houston. The citizens of the great wheat producing section take a great interest in this annual meeting, and everywhere the Trans-Mississippi Commercial Congress is mentioned during the next few months it will be associated with Houston. The exact date of the meeting has not yet been decided, but it has been expected that it will be held some time in April, 1900.

F. A. Heilmann: I think the next meeting of the Trans-Mississippi Commercial Congress will be a more benefit to Houston as a city and as a port than any other meeting that could be held. I talked personally with gentlemen from California, Idaho, Oregon, Colorado, New Mexico and with dozens from Oklahoma, Missouri, Arkansas, and I believe that if we push the meeting here it should be pushed the more. The Trans-Mississippi Commercial Congress will be represented by hundreds of delegates. It will require considerable money to carry on this congress. We have pledged ourselves to print the full proceedings of the next meeting and to furnish hats, badges and all other expenses and to keep the executive committee supplied with the money necessary to carry on an effective campaign for the meeting to be held in Houston, as I understand, in next April. I shall take pleasure in subscribing to a fund to be used in this work.

Senator R. A. Greer of Beaumont: My wife and I started to the Trans-Mississippi Commercial Congress more on a pleasure trip than anything else. I knew nothing of the objects and aims of the congress except what little I had seen in the newspapers, and I paid very little attention. That I was much impressed with the importance of this congress and that it was a great thing for the west and for the future of this country, I am satisfied that every member attending the congress had at heart that any other class of our citizens. Most of the delegates were along this line, and the principal idea seemed to be that the producer was oppressed more from exorbitant freight rates to the seaboard than from any other cause. I am satisfied that this congress will work to the great good of the people of the south and west, and the day is not far distant when all the western and southern congressmen will be compelled to work for the enactment of the views of the body into laws, and I am satisfied that the pressure will be so strong that eastern men will have to fall in line and recognize the force of the section west of the Mississippi river. The Houston delegation certainly deserves great credit for the earnest and zealous work which they undertook in securing the next session for Texas. It is not only Houston who should be proud of those delegates, but the entire state of Texas. It was a hard fight, but Houston won with hands down. I do not think that the benefits to Texas in having this congress at Houston next year can be overestimated. Certainly if this congress can cause the national legislative body to deepen the channel between Houston and Galveston, it will be of untold benefit to the state, as well as to the whole west. Outside of the more personal question that Houston will be benefited, the whole state will reap the benefits from the advertisement that these people will make of their trip and of the untold influence that will be exerted in favor of the city and the members of congress from the west. In this connection I desire to say that the Houston delegation were also seconded in their efforts by the ladies who they carried along. I never saw such zeal and energy shown as those ladies exhibited in the interest of Houston. They worked bravely, also when it came to making mention of the fact that Mr. Ewing, the one furnished by Texas, was by far the most gifted and eloquent speaker that was on the stage during the entire session of the congress. In saying that it is no small compliment, because there were governors, ex-governors, senators and prominent lawyers from every part of the country, and men whose speech will live in the annals of the congress.

Colonel N. L. Miller: The session of the Trans-Mississippi Commercial Congress at Wichita was a splendid one and the large number of delegates in attendance from the states entitled to representation gave evidence of the growing importance in which these sessions are held by the people. The great interest shown in anything brought before the congress relative to the gulf outlet and to Houston and deep water in Buffalo Bayou in particular, showed very plainly that people north and west of us are fully alive to the benefits that will accrue to them upon the completion of this project. When we see the magnificent crops of the country through which we have passed and realize the surplus amount of all this

vast territory will come to our wharves to be loaded on ocean vessels to all the markets of the world, we can understand the immense volume of business that must be handled. Colorado boasts of the products of her mines, but they sink into insignificance when compared with the immensity of the grain, cattle, lumber and other products in all the vast territory north of us, and which must pass through our gates.

The ladies of the party, Mrs. Rosine Ryan, Mrs. Bettie Bryan and Mrs. F. A. Greer, of Beaumont, state that they are enthusiastic over the marked hospitality of the ladies of Wichita, combining refinement with the free hearted manner characteristic of the west. "The entertainment we received here," said Mrs. Ryan, speaking for herself and the other ladies, "should stir us to work upon the greatest enthusiasm and interest among the ladies of Houston and other points which the congress intends to visit and prove that southern hospitality is fully commensurate with that extended to us at the 'pearl princess of the plains,' Wichita." Mrs. Ryan said that all Kansas and particularly Wichita was a perfect revelation to her.

The Post gives below the impressions of other members of the delegation from Texas as to the recent congress at Wichita, the entertainment given in their honor, the effects of that great body, the Trans-Mississippi Commercial Congress: **E. L. Dennis:** Our attendance at the Trans-Mississippi Commercial Congress brought both pleasure and surprise to every member of the delegation. I am satisfied the people of Houston have no conception of the power and influence of this congress. It is a representative body composed of able, thinking, influential men, who are associated, not only with the affairs of their own states, but to a large extent those of our whole country. The people of Houston are to be congratulated that the next meeting of this body will be held in this city, as I know of no agency having greater power to advance the material interests of all city and state than this congress. In fact, I believe it holds the key that unlocks the door to the realization of the material benefits to be derived by our city and state from deep water in Buffalo Bayou. It behooves every citizen of Houston, when the time comes to arrange for the entertainment of its guests, to put his shoulder to the wheel and his hand in his pocket and see that Mr. Richardson and his associates are provided with the necessary aid to properly entertain the congress.

Hon. P. K. Ewing: The munificent hospitality and generous response to our request for the congress to come where God smiles seems to have fallen upon us, about tells it all. The next meeting of the Trans-Mississippi Commercial Congress will prove a signal stroke for the advancement of the material interests of both Houston and Texas. It cannot fail to cement more closely the bond of commercial interests between the south and the great west, or can it fail to furnish our delegates with the greatest opportunity now in contemplation for the future prosperity of the great Trans-Mississippi territory. It was upon this plan that we made the fight, for the next congress at Houston and got it. The response was ready and hearty. The meeting of the present congress was an important one and much good may be expected to result from its deliberations. As a member of the committee on resolutions, I know that the most careful thought and patient deliberation were given to the subjects covered by them, and while some of them may not be exactly what every one would like, the trend of thought embodied in them tends to point out legislation much needed in most instances, at least for the commercial interests of the country.

Mr. W. H. Cortes: I am enthusiastic over the trip and believe that the Houston delegation could not well have been improved upon. After we arrived at Wichita it didn't take long to see that that was the true candidate in the field and that Hot Springs and Cripple Creek had already a great many delegates pledged to them. Every member of the delegation went to work and those from other parts of Texas did their full duty. Galveston and Houston delegates were like twins. The great west has many important questions to decide and transportation to deep water is far beyond all others in importance. I feel certain that the meeting to be held in this city next year will be of untold benefit to Houston and all of the points interested in the gulf outlet. We must go to work on the next congress at once to make it the most important meeting in the history of that great body.

Mr. Homer B. Mitchell: I shall long cherish the memory of our pleasant trip to the Trans-Mississippi Commercial Congress and to Wichita, the "pearl princess of the plains." Profound interest and earnest efforts of so many and far distant states and far objects which the attainment must redound to the greatest growth and development of Houston deeply impressed me with her inevitable destiny as a southern metropolis, and the magnificent hospitality of the people of Wichita set an example which will demand of Houston her best efforts, for we must surpass it next year and leave the slumber of our chamber upon next year's congress, as well as imbue them with deeper interest of our great project. Wichita was my home during the period of its great boom and I was most agreeably surprised in finding there the life and energy which is everywhere manifest, having heard so much of her prostration after the boom collapsed.

Tom Richardson was, of course, as busy as any other man at the congress, and as the secretary from this time until the meeting at Houston will be more than any man responsible for its success or failure. Mr. Richardson was acquainted in advance with a majority of the delegates in the congress and counted his personal friends among those present by the hundreds. Mr. Richardson said: "The executive committee is especially strong. I have never met a more capable executive officer than Mr. E. R. Moses of Great Bend, Kan., who holds the very responsible position of chairman of the executive committee. Mr. Moses and Hon. C. A. Fellows, of Topeka, vice president for this state of Kansas, will visit Houston some time before the congress convenes, and I feel certain that no one ever visited Houston who will be more thoroughly welcome. I will have so much to say and so much to write with reference to this great meeting in Houston next year that you will pardon me for being so brief at this time."

Mr. C. W. Hall: A pillar set of delegates never left the city of Houston than those which composed the delegation to the Trans-Mississippi Commercial Congress at Wichita, nor did ever a party

leave that worked harder, both ladies and gentlemen, than did this delegation. They accomplished the purpose for which they went, which were: First, to get the endorsement of the congress of deep water at Houston; second, to hold the next congress to convene at Houston. Both of these were accomplished after very hard work and the closest competition of other points, which were after the next meeting, which were on the ground twenty-four hours ahead of our delegation and had done some very effective work. Our treatment by the people of Wichita, and especially the Commercial club, was simply immense and the trip will long be remembered by all who went. There were a great many very interesting events, but the one that took the laurels of the occasion was the address of Hon. Presley K. Ewing. The ladies of the party worked hard to aid in accomplishing what we did and should receive credit for a big part of the work. It was an occasion long to be remembered.

Hon. George T. Jester of Corsicana: I think the meeting of the Trans-Mississippi Commercial Congress at Houston next year will be of great benefit to Texas. There is no question of one thing, and that is that the states which compose the Trans-Mississippi Commercial Congress are being settled up very rapidly and that all of these states are looking to Texas for an outlet to the ocean. Texas is the most important state of them all. It is now needed that we have two or three feet deeper water at Galveston than New Orleans has and the importance of one Texas port is fully recognized. The unanimous endorsement of the congress for the appropriation to open up Buffalo Bayou is certainly not only gratifying to the Houston delegation, but to the people of Texas.

Mr. D. B. Stancil: Texas has great cause to be proud of her delegation to the Trans-Mississippi Commercial Congress at Wichita. In the first place, it was the most conspicuous delegation present, and was composed of a fine looking body of business men. From the opening of the congress to the close, Texas attracted the people of Wichita that St. John's parish was composed of the most prominent men from all the states and territories west of the Mississippi river. The perfect accord and union with which the Texas delegation worked was a source of much pride and good feeling on the part of the members. Houston and Galveston and other Texas cities rallied together and why should they not? Every ship that comes to Galveston will make Houston richer and every vessel that lands at Houston will benefit Galveston in the same proportion. There is more commerce to be secured than both of these cities can handle and in a united effort they will be more than able to secure as much as each can take care of. No one doubts but that in union there is strength, and why should there be an exception to the rule in this case? In my opinion there is none. Houston went there with such vim and determination that it completely captured the congress and the people of the west. It was a common expression from the delegates that Houston can get anything she wants.

Great credit is due to the ladies of the Texas delegation for the splendid work done by them, and for the splendid work delivered by Hon. Presley K. Ewing, but credit is also due to Mr. Tom Richardson, secretary of the Houston Business League, for collection and concentration of these irresistible forces.

Mr. E. E. M. Cochran of Fort Worth: Perhaps the most important question before the Trans-Mississippi Commercial Congress is the question of deep water harbors and facilities on the gulf coast. The west has reached the conclusion that its outlet lies in this direction. The action of Houston in sending to the congress the representation it did has done more to further the interests of Texas and the entire south than perhaps any other action before by any state. The selection of Houston as the place of the next meeting was a fitting one for all the states and territories of the west. Representatives who hitherto have not been familiar with conditions existing in the south and in all the gulf cities will so before congress advocate for assistance to develop the coast country, thereby bettering the position of all the people in that country and as a result thereby increasing the business relations between the more northern states and those of the south, resulting in a diversion of the great traffic of the west from the east to the south.

The New York Evening Post's special correspondent, E. V. Smalley, had this to say of the congress: It was evident from the opening of the proceedings that the congress had returned to its first love, and that the leading question to be discussed was going to be deep water ports on the Gulf of Mexico, as an outlet for the grain surplus of the great western prairie region, which seeks markets in Europe. Congress has already opened two such ports on the Texas coast at Galveston and Sabine Pass, on the urgent recommendation of the Trans-Mississippi congress, but these do not completely satisfy the ambition of Texas to have the great commercial state. Accordingly, a very large delegation appears here from that state to advocate congressional appropriations for opening a deep-water channel from the entrance to Galveston Bay through the whole length of the bay and on Buffalo Bayou to Houston, a distance of over fifty miles. There is about eight feet of water in the bay at present, and only three or four feet in the harbor, so that the enterprise is a formidable one, but the estimate was that with \$1,000,000 they will cut the channel, and bring large ocean steamships up to the wharves of Houston. Three or four other Texas ports are also claiming for congressional appropriations, but they are now laying siege to this congress. The Texas delegates, who are all in favor of the Houston scheme, outnumber those from Kansas, and they brought with them a party of ladies bearing magnificent Texas flags, with which the drive of the congress was abundantly decorated.

The growth of the new commercial movement in grain and cattle from the western prairie to Europe by way of the new gulf ports of Galveston and Port Arthur deserves more attention than it has yet received in New York. The port of Galveston, Kan., to New York is over 1,000 miles from Topeka to Galveston, less than 50 miles; thus the advantage in distance of the new route over the old one to New York is about 950 miles. All Kansas is very much alive to this advantage, and it was asserted in the congress today that the opening of the gulf route has added 2 cents to the price of every bushel of corn produced in the state. The acknowledged drawback to the new route is the lack of return freight. The cars which haul the corn and wheat to Kansas, Nebraska and Oklahoma must mostly return empty, because there is no increasing movement of European traffic to the only freight being hauled from the far west region of eastern Texas. The new commercial movement is fully established, however, and the people of Kansas and Texas are especially proud of it. After many

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HISTORY OF A CHURCH.

In Wichita, situated in a magnificent location, at the corner of Topeka avenue and Third street, stands the magnificent stone edifice known as St. John's Episcopal Church of Wichita. The most beautiful church in the diocese of Kansas. About \$50,000 invested in the church property, which it is now being furnished with antique oak pews and furniture and all the appointments of a beautiful church edifice and place of worship.

The church has three distinct periods in its history. The accompanying cut shows



ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

the first church building in Wichita—the Lawrence Avenue Episcopal church is well known—and the St. John's church as it now stands. The first illustration shows the chrysalis stage. The Lawrence Avenue building is the moth of caterpillar stage; and the third, the present stone church, is the full matured butterfly.

At this time there is a feeling among the people of Wichita that St. John's parish will make itself worthy of its magnificent church, and that as the years go by the church will wax and grow and increase in strength, wisdom and numbers. There is a feeling here that the coming of the present rector, the Rev. John F. von Herff, was providential, because since his coming the parish has been blessed in every way and has increased in numbers, and has completed its church edifice. Under the rector the largest classes known in the history of the church have been confirmed.

St. John's Church of Wichita was organized very soon after the town was started, and its first meetings for worship were held early in 1870 and perhaps in the latter part of 1869. Its membership at that time was small, but among them were those who were earnest and zealous in their efforts to make the organization a success. Among the ministers in that respect was John Price Hilton. He was an Englishman and a deacon and by order in the church, under a license from the church in England. It is probable that this was the first church of that denomination in the state west of Emporia, and perhaps of Topeka. At its first organization the society had no regular place of worship, but services were held at such places as could be secured, and were conducted by Mr. Hilton.

Mr. Hilton could not break the idea that the church which he had been so instrumental in organizing should be without a home of its own, and he set about to worship and resolved to build a church for his people, with the labor of his own hands, without help or aid from any other person. And he did so, and with his own hands, except he had the use of a team and wagon to haul some of the material to the ground on which he erected



SECOND EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

the structure. The church was erected on the west side of Main street, between Third street and Central avenue, about a block south of where the east house of Seligman county now stands. The church was in a manner a roadside and exceedingly primitive in all its parts. In size it was about 15 by 30 feet. The accompanying cut of the first church, made from a photograph, conveys some idea of the exterior appearance of the church.

James R. Mead had devoted to the church a lot on Emporia avenue, and William Griffiths had one at the corner of Market street and Central avenue, but they were of no value to the organization as it had no means to build on either of them, and the title was likely to revert to the donors. In 1871 an incident happened and from which there was set on foot the plans that again called the church organization into life and activity. Mrs. Martin Heiler and Mrs. James R. Mead of this city happened to be at some social gathering, but had never met before. After an introduction and exchanging views, they found that each were staunch Episcopals. They regretted that there was no church organization in Wichita, and expressed the hope that there soon might be. After this meeting and knowledge of each other, they held conferences and entered upon the work with zeal and determination to succeed, and succeeded in interesting other ladies in the work, and secured their cooperation in carrying on the same. They found that the lot on Market street, donated to the church by Mr. Griffiths, had been sold for taxes and could not be redeemed, that the lot on Emporia avenue had also been sold for taxes, but that the purchaser would consent to its being redeemed by the payment of about \$10. By giving entertainments and holding socials they succeeded in obtaining sufficient means to redeem this lot. A guild was organized by the Episcopal ladies who had become interested in the work. The lot on Emporia avenue was sold for \$10. The ladies of the guild had in the meantime

succeeded by various means in accumulating quite a little fund, so large that with the proceeds of the sale of the lot in question it had in its treasury \$1500. With this money the guild purchased the lot on or near the corner of Market and Fifth streets, and known as the Baldwin property, which it afterward sold for \$1,500.

Soon after 1878 the question of building a church edifice began to be discussed by the ladies of the guild, and in the fall of 1878 the arrangements were completed and lots on the west side of Lawrence avenue, between First and Second streets, were secured and the contract let to build the church. It was the intention to have both a church and a rectory. The building was not a large one, but neat in style and finish. The cornerstone was laid on Easter Sunday 1879, and but one man, besides the rector, was present, and he a stranger. This fact demonstrates how largely the work was accomplished by the ladies of the guild. Soon after this church was built the lot immediately south of it, with the house on it, was purchased and used as a rectory, and for several years the

parish was happy in its new home of worship. The church was without a rector for a number of years before 1879, but was at times visited by rectors from other parishes, and in this manner services were held at irregular intervals, as the attendance of a rector could be secured and a suitable choir to hold their services be obtained. In the spring of 1879 a call was extended to the Rev. Joseph Coffey, which was accepted, and he remained with the church about two years. Mr. Coffey was devoted to the church and its work, and he



at the corner of Topeka avenue and Third street on which to erect the new building, and the work was commenced, but before the walls of the building were completed the walls of hard times came upon the country and the people of Wichita lay prostrate under it. Those who had subscribed to the fund to build the church could not get on, or were in such straits that a Christian spirit could not ask them to. A large sum was borrowed and secured by a mortgage on the Lawrence Avenue church and rectory to carry on the work and pay obligations then due. This was done in the hope that better times would come and the mortgage would be paid and the church freed. When the walls were up and the frame and roof work of the roof were in place all the money that had been borrowed and collected on the subscription had been expended and no more could be collected. The work had to stop, after a temporary roof had been put on to save the walls, but with the hope of better times when the work would be carried on to completion. But the expected better times did not come and the prospect of completing the church became more doubtful each day. When after quite a delay, an money could be obtained no further was on with the work. C. A. Walker, one of the workmen, and of whose life on the wall, which built the church were purchased, had a stable roof on the building and before and after for building got in the place, and all further work was temporarily postponed.

When an indication of nearly 1000 returns on the new building, there seemed to be little or no hope of finishing or of making the new building from the love that were upon it, or of redeeming the Lawrence Avenue church from the mortgage it was under.

Early in the year 1881, Rev. John F. von Herff, who stayed with the society about two



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REV. J. F. VON HERFF.